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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 10 October 1949

SUBJECT Arrangements for East German Government

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1. The preliminary negotiations leading up to the formation of the eastern German government on 7 October 1949 were as follows: Ambassador V.S. Semenov and K.I. Koval, the political and economic advisers, respectively, to General Chuikov, returned from Moscow about 23 September. On the evening of 25 September a meeting of the SED Politbüro was held at Wilhelm Pieck's house, after which Semenov visited Pieck. On the afternoon of 30 September, Pieck and Walter Ulbricht made arrangements to clear the building of the former Prussian Landtag of DWK offices, the move to be completed by 30 October. During the evening of 30 September, Ambassador Semenov held a conference with leaders of the bourgeois parties. On the following morning all available vehicles of the DWK were dispatched to factories at various places in the Russian Zone to requisition office furniture and carpets.
2. Hans-Paul Ganter-Gilraths (CDU), chief of the Hauptverwaltung Trade and Supply in the DWK, is said to have known as early as 1 October the approximate composition of the various ministries. On the second the "spontaneous" demands for a German government began to be made by factory groups; Heinrich Rau spoke on 2 October at a tractor factory at Brandenburg a. d. Havel. The Politbüro met on the evening of 2 October, and again on 3 October; on 4 October the details of the coming government were announced to a meeting of the SED Vorstand. This was followed by a meeting of the "Democratic Bloc" on 5 October.
3. It is now reported that Pieck will be the president of the new government, and that in that capacity he will hold his first formal reception on 12 October in Schloss Niederschönhausen. The announcement that elections will be held in the middle of October 1950 is to be made officially on 11 October 1949. Source says it is generally agreed that no peace treaty with the U.S.S.R. will be concluded in the near future.
4. The cabinet to be announced on 12 October will be composed about as follows:^{*}

Deputy Ministers President

Walter Ulbricht (SED)

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Prof. Hermann Kastner (LDP)

NO CHANGE in Class.

Otto Muschke (CDU)

Economic Planning

Heinrich Rau (SED)

Deputy

Bruno Leuschner (SED)

Economics

Fritz Selbmann (SED)

Deputy

(probably CDU)

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Interior	Dr. Karl Steinhoff (SED)
Deputy	Dr. Kurt Fischer (SED)
Foreign Office	Georg Dertinger (CDU)
Deputy	Anton Ackermann (SED)
Foreign Trade	Georg Handke (SED)
Deputy	Hans-Paul Ganter-Gilmans (CDU)
Internal Trade	Otto Röhle (NDP)
Deputy	Baron Wilhelm von Stolzenberg (LDP)
Construction	Dr. Karl Hemann (LDP)
Transport	Prof. Hans Reingruber (SED)
Deputy	William Bacham (CDU)
Finance	Dr. Hans Loch (LDP)
Deputy	Willy Rumpf (SED)
Justice	Max Fechner (SED)
Deputy	Dr. Helmut Brandt (CDU)
Labor and Social Welfare	Luitpold Steidle (CDU)
Deputy	Mrs. Jenny Matern (SED)
Agriculture and Forestry	Herbert Hoffmann (Peasant Party)
Deputy	Paul Merker (SED)
Post and Telegraph	Dr. Reinhold Lobedanz (CDU)
Deputy	Dr. Wilhelm Schroeder (SED)
Kultus	Paul Wandel (SED)
Information	not decided
Secretary of State under the President	Dr. Leo Zuckermann (SED)

5. It is still being debated whether there should be an independent Personnel Department; the bourgeois parties want a separate personnel section in each ministry. Arthur Pieck (SED), the son of Wilhelm Pieck, who has been chief of personnel for the DKP until recently, will be in his father's office.

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6. Josef Orlopp (SED) will be head of the Deutsche Aussenhandelsgesellschaft.

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* [redacted] Comment: This list appears more likely to be correct than the one given in [redacted] since it includes members of other parties than the SED, whose appointment would be considered desirable to preserve the appearance of an all-party front.

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